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Some limited archaeological excavation has been conducted in the past few weeks. Soil around the Hicks school has been graded to shed water away from the building's foundation. The soil in this area was already heavily disturbed from plowing and tilling as a garden for many years. Several artifacts were recovered including various sized harrow spikes, sawn animal bone, glass, nails, implement parts, a portion of a horse harness bit, and ceramics. For those unfamiliar with harrow spikes, they look similar to railroad spikes but without a head. The spikes were pounded into wood drags pulled by horses that were used to break up the soil, particularly the sod. Besides whiteware sherds and a section of stoneware crock, several ceramics with decoration were found. One has a green transferware decoration in the "Star" pattern, an aesthetic design dating to the late 19th century. A sherd with blue transferprint decoration in the "Sydenham" pattern by Joseph Clementson was also recovered. "Sydenham" dates to as early as 1852 and this sherd represents a saucer. A white granite rimsherd exhibiting molded decoration rounds out the decorated ceramic inventory.

Archaeological work was also conducted near the house. This excavation was completed for the main purpose of installing a pole for a bell that was once located at the south end of the house. As mid 19th century artifacts had been recovered adjacently west along the foundation when installing electrical service a couple of years ago, it was likely that artifacts would also be found near where the bell pole once stood. While only half of a quarter unit was excavated, it did not disappoint. A large section of a lead glazed redware crock base was recovered. The section of crock base was moderately exfoliated, not uncommon for sherds from redware vessels. A body section of salt glazed stoneware with NY Albany slip interior, likely from a jug, was also recovered. Metal items included a portion of a drawer handle and an unknown item that might be part of a door lock. Parts of a glass bottle and a rim section of a panelled glass tumbler with etching was also found.

Two large sections of blue transferprinted sherds were also recovered. The pattern of the transferprint decoration is "Tessino" by Joseph Clementson, registered in 1846. Other artifacts in this pattern have been previously recovered from other vessels. These newly recovered sherds are of particular interest as they exhibit a molded indentation at the bottom. Despite having several hundred mid 19th century Clementson made items in the Warner comparative collection, this hollow-form appears to be a new shape not yet encountered. The rim of the sherds suggest a bowl form that may have had some type of molded foot at the bottom.

Also recovered was cut animal bone, bottle glass, nails, pieces of coal, and a knife blade. The knife is round at the distal end and exhibits a portion of the tang. Interestingly, it was found at an angle against the existing house foundation between several cobbles. This seems to suggest that the knife blade predates the house and was mixed up in some of the cobbles used to build the foundation of the 1855 Greek Revival home.

Few in the Warner family recall a bell on a pole at the south end of the house. Photos from the 1920s to 1940s clearly show it located at the corner of the house, the top appearing above the roofline. However, by about 1950 the bell and pole had been removed. Excavation in this area allowed for the pinpointing of the exact location and in fact discovery of the original hole that the pole had set in. The hole was re-excavated and a telephone pole donated by Warner family members Guy and Velvet Garver was placed in it. The bell was donated by my great-uncle, Robert Warner. Interestingly enough, he had wanted to buy the original bell that sold at the farm auction in 1962. Unfortunately, the final bid of \$33 was beyond his financial resources at the time.

What might be chalked up in the "weird but true" category are several newspaper articles regarding a tar and feather incident that took place in Conway Twp, Livingston Co, MI. Most recall from high school history classes the tarring and feathering of British tax collectors around the time of the American Revolution. I was previously unaware that such activities took place in the 20th century. Several newspaper articles in the *Livingston Republican* chronicle a bizarre twist of events beginning in July 1906 with a potential family connection. Apparently, about 25 local citizens decided to take matters into their own hands to stop a "house of ill-fame". The group tarred and feathered four people involved in the house who later sued. One of those named in the suit is Nelson Fuller. My great grandmother, Laura Fuller-Warner, had a brother named Nelson (born 1874) that lived in Conway Twp (per 1900 census with his wife Maud and son Charles). The 1910 census places them in Davison, Genesee, Co. Though there are no family recollections of the incident, the Nelson Fuller listed in 1900 for Conway is definitely Laura's brother and there are no other Nelson Fuller's listed in that census for Conway. It seems that the incident and court case caused quite a stir at the time, receiving coverage across the state and parts of the country. It wasn't an isolated affair, though. There are more newspaper articles on tarring and feathering around that time in Hudson, MI as well as in Indiana (in which a mob dragged the victim from a court house before his trial for insulting a girl). This court case for the Conway Twp incident gets moved to Genesee Co and actually ends up implicating at least two of the victims who spend time in jail.

Due to the ongoing covid pandemic, the Michigan One Room Schoolhouse Association annual conference to be held at the Warner farm was cancelled. It is hoped that it can be held next year at the farm. The display of artifacts from the Warner site to be showcased at the CoBACH center in the city of Brighton was also cancelled due to the virus. It is possible that it might get rescheduled for later this fall, but that is looking increasingly dubious.



